

TIFAM National Team Selection and Appeals Policy

1 Purpose

This policy provides a fair and clear process for selecting archers and team personnel to represent TIFAM or Ireland.

Selection should:

- reward sporting merit;
- meet event requirements;
- protect welfare;
- protect team reputation;
- remain consistent with T.A.I. rules.

2 Scope

The policy applies to selection of:

- archers;
- reserve archers;
- team managers;
- coaches;
- referees or officials nominated by TIFAM;
- support personnel;
- national squads.

An open international event where each eligible archer enters personally may require confirmation of eligibility rather than competitive selection.

3 Governing rules

Selection shall comply with:

- current T.A.I. rules;
- host-event conditions;
- TIFAM Sporting Regulations;
- Code of Conduct;

- Safeguarding Policy;
- Safety Policy;
- published selection criteria;
- applicable Irish law.

A T.A.I. eligibility rule prevails for a T.A.I.-sanctioned event.

4 Selection principles

Selection decisions shall be:

- published in advance;
- based upon relevant evidence;
- applied consistently;
- made by suitable selectors;
- protected from conflicts of interest;
- explained to applicants;
- open to appeal.

Sporting reputation, friendship, club connection or seniority shall carry no improper influence.

5 Selection notice

TIFAM shall publish a selection notice before the qualifying period or as early as practical.

The notice should state:

- event;
- location;
- available places;
- eligible bow styles;
- eligible age classes;
- qualifying period;
- eligible competitions;
- minimum participation;
- ranking or points method;
- discretionary factors;
- conduct requirements;

- safeguarding requirements;
- expected costs;
- team commitment;
- selection date;
- appeal deadline.

A material change shall be communicated promptly.

6 Eligibility

An applicant must ordinarily:

- hold current TIFAM registration;
- satisfy T.A.I. rules;
- satisfy host-event rules;
- meet nationality requirements;
- enter the correct bow style;
- enter the correct age class;
- complete required qualifying activity;
- follow TIFAM policies;
- meet deadlines;
- remain fit to participate safely;
- meet travel and documentation requirements.

An active suspension makes the person ineligible for the activity covered by that suspension.

7 Selection criteria

Criteria may include:

- ranking points;
- approved competition scores;
- consistency;
- performance in the relevant round;
- attendance at required events;
- technical eligibility;
- readiness;

- ability to complete the event safely;
- team-role requirements;
- reliability;
- conduct.

Objective results should carry the main weight where places are limited.

Discretionary criteria must be stated in advance.

8 National Director's role

The National Director of Coaching, Education and Development acts as the principal technical adviser.

The Director may:

- confirm T.A.I. rules;
- advise on bow styles;
- advise on age classes;
- verify qualifying events;
- verify scores;
- prepare ranking information;
- advise on technical readiness;
- identify eligibility concerns;
- assist with criteria.

The Director does not automatically act as the sole selector.

A conflict involving a candidate requires declaration and suitable withdrawal.

9 Selection panel

The Board shall appoint a panel with suitable sporting knowledge.

A panel should normally contain at least three persons.

Members shall declare:

- family relationships;
- coaching relationships;
- close personal connections;
- club interests affecting impartiality;

- financial interests;
- other relevant conflicts.

An independent member should be included where practical.

10 Information considered

Selectors shall use verified information.

Relevant records may include:

- official results;
- current rankings;
- equipment eligibility;
- class eligibility;
- attendance;
- published discretionary evidence;
- conduct restrictions properly established;
- safeguarding restrictions properly established.

Rumour and unsupported personal opinion shall carry no weight.

11 Selection meeting

The panel shall:

- confirm criteria;
- record conflicts;
- verify eligibility;
- apply the published method;
- record decisions;
- record reasons;
- identify reserves where appropriate;
- preserve selection records.

12 Discretionary selection

A discretionary place may be used only where published criteria permit it.

Possible reasons include:

- verified injury affecting qualification;

- exceptional performance in a comparable event;
- need to fill a required class;
- event-specific team composition;
- limited qualifying opportunities;
- another published factor.

Written reasons shall explain the decision.

13 Children and junior athletes

Selection of a child requires:

- parent or guardian agreement;
- safeguarding arrangements;
- travel plan;
- supervision plan;
- age-class eligibility;
- attention to welfare;
- communication suited to age.

Performance expectations shall remain appropriate to the child's development.

14 Notification

Each applicant shall receive the outcome in writing.

The notice should state:

- selected, reserved or declined;
- conditions;
- response deadline;
- next steps;
- appeal route.

Public announcement should follow private notification where practical.

15 Acceptance

A selected person shall confirm acceptance by the stated deadline.

Acceptance includes agreement to:

- follow team instructions;

- maintain eligibility;
- comply with TIFAM rules;
- comply with T.A.I. rules;
- attend required meetings;
- meet agreed financial arrangements;
- observe travel and conduct requirements;
- report injury or changed circumstances.

Failure to accept may lead to an offer to a reserve.

16 Reserves and replacements

Reserves should be ranked or identified through the published process.

A replacement shall ordinarily come from the reserve list.

Where the list provides no eligible person, the panel may make a further selection using the original criteria as closely as possible.

The reason shall be recorded.

17 Withdrawal of selection

Selection may be withdrawn where a person:

- loses eligibility;
- becomes unable to participate safely;
- breaches a stated condition;
- fails to complete administration;
- receives a relevant disciplinary sanction;
- becomes subject to a necessary safeguarding or safety measure;
- resigns from the team.

A disciplinary conclusion requires the Disciplinary Procedure.

An urgent protective measure may apply while another process continues.

18 Grounds for appeal

An appeal may be made for:

- material procedural error;
- incorrect score;

- incorrect factual information;
- failure to apply published criteria;
- material conflict of interest;
- decision lacking a reasonable basis;
- relevant evidence unavailable for reasons outside the applicant's control.

Disagreement with properly applied sporting judgement is insufficient by itself.

19 Appeal submission

An appeal shall be submitted within the published deadline, normally seven days after notification.

It should identify:

- decision challenged;
- appeal ground;
- relevant facts;
- supporting documents;
- outcome sought.

Time-sensitive events may require a shorter published period while preserving fair opportunity.

20 Appeal panel

The Board shall appoint an appeal panel whose members:

- took no part in the original selection;
- hold no material conflict;
- possess suitable knowledge;
- can act within the event timetable.

The panel may request information from:

- applicant;
- selectors;
- National Director;
- relevant event officials.

21 Appeal outcome

The appeal panel may:

- uphold selection;

- correct a factual error;
- correct a calculation;
- require reconsideration;
- set aside an affected decision;
- direct a fresh selection for the affected place.

The appeal panel should avoid selecting the team itself unless the rules expressly permit that action or time makes another fair remedy impractical.

A written outcome shall provide reasons.

22 Relationship with other procedures

Competition protests follow the Sporting Regulations.

Misconduct follows the Disciplinary Procedure.

Safeguarding concerns follow the Safeguarding Policy.

Administrative matters outside selection follow the General Complaints and Feedback Procedure.

23 Records and privacy

TIFAM shall keep:

- criteria;
- declarations;
- results;
- reasons;
- appeal records;

securely.

Medical, safeguarding and disciplinary information receives restricted access.

24 Review

TIFAM shall review this policy after each major selection cycle or where an appeal identifies a weakness.